MoU over Brahmaputra river

*14. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has recently been signed between China and India with regard to the Brahmaputra river;

(b) if so, the details and the objectives thereof; and

(c) what follow-up steps Government propose to take to plan and prepare for the floods and also work out water resources development plans in the catchment areas as a result of the proposed agreement?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the visit of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji to India in January, 2002, an MoU was signed between the Ministry of Water Resources of India and Ministry of Water Resources of China on provision of hydrological information of the Yaluzangbu/ Brahmaputra river in flood season by China to India. As per the MoU, China will provide India with information on water level, discharge and rainfall twice a day from June 1 to October 15 each year in respect of three hydrological stations—Nugesha, Yangcun and Nuxia—lying on the mainstream of the Brahmaputra river. The Chinese side has also agreed to provide this hydrological information if water level exceeds mutually agreed levels during the non-flood season. China has further agreed to provide information on a real time basis on abnormal rise/fall in the water level/discharge and other information which might lead to sudden floods on the basis of existing monitoring and data collection facilities. The two sides are to conclude an Implementation Plan to implement the understanding reached in the MoU. The above information will be useful in flood forecasting activities on the downstream of Brahmaputra river in India.